



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, MA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) for a Brownfields Pilot. The MRPC encompasses 22 communities with a total population of 223,865 in north-central Massachusetts. High concentrations of manufacturing industries in some cities as well as vast expanses of undeveloped towns characterize the MRPC.

Wood, paper, and textile industries in the region have been in decline since the early 1980s, creating a patchwork of brownfields across the region. Today, numerous abandoned and underused red-brick mills sit along rivers and in central business districts. The impact of brownfields has been greatest on the low- and moderate-income and minority residents who live in the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the problem sites. Since 1989, unemployment rates in the region have been consistently higher than State and national levels.

## OBJECTIVES

The MRPC plans to return at least two brownfields to productive reuse within the two-year period of the Pilot. Pilot funds will be used to solicit site-selection

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Montachusett Regional  
Planning Commission,  
Massachusetts*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will target the 22 communities incorporating the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC).

### Contacts:

Montachusett Regional  
Planning Commission  
(978) 343-0646

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

input from the residents of areas impacted by brownfields; prioritize sites based on redevelopment potential; and perform environmental assessments on the targeted sites. The MRPC will provide additional funding to develop innovative zoning approaches and establish a regional brownfields redevelopment agency.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing criteria for selection of sites to be assessed by the Pilot;
- Holding public meetings to obtain citizen input on site selection and prioritization;
- Conducting a maximum of eight Phase I site assessments; and
- Conducting a maximum of two Phase II site assessments.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.